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THE
MANIFESTO
OF THE

Duke of *MOLES*,

Late Ambassador from *SPAIN* to the
Imperial Court.

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M A N I F E S T O

OF THE

DUKE OF NOBLES



Late Ambassador

Imperial

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OF THE

Duke of MOLES

Late Ambaffador from *Charles*
the II^d. King of *Spain*, to
the Imperial Court.

In Justification of his Acknowledging the
Title of the House of *Austria* to the
Spanish Monarchy.

Printed by *Edward Jones* in the *Savoy*. 1703.

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Duke of MOLES

Late Ambassador from Charles
the III King of Spain to
the Imperial Court.



In justification of the
Title of the House of Austria to the
Spanish Monarchy

Printed by Edward Jones in the Strand. 1707

Advertisement.

THat the Reader may the better understand this Manifesto, it will not be amiss to acquaint him, That the Author of it, the Duke de Moles, is a Neapolitan by Birth; and as Great Chancellor of Milan had the Chief Direction of the Affairs of that State under the Count de Melgar, now Almirante of Castile, while he was entrusted with that Government: He was since employed at Genoua, and afterwards in the Quality of Ambassador at Venice for above Three Years; which Offices he discharged so much to the Satisfaction of the late King of Spain his Master, that he made choice of him in the beginning of the Year 1700, to be his Ambassador at the Imperial Court, entrusting him at the same time with his most Secret Thoughts concerning the Succession to the Spanish Monarchy, which was the main Subject of his Embassy. What may be gathered from this Paper as to the Affair of this Suc-

cession, and as to the Usage which the Subjects of Spain, who are not blindly devoted to the French Interest, meet with from the Government there, we submit to the Reader's Judgment; and leave the Duke to tell his own Story in the following Sheets.

THE

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MANIFESTO

OF

The Duke of *MOLES*,

Late Ambassador from *Charles* the II^d.
King of *Spain*, to the Imperial Court.

A Man's Reputation is so nice a Thing, that for the preserving it, it is not sufficient that he do Honourable Actions, but they must also be known and approved of as such, by the general Consent of Mankind. Therefore I *Francis de Moles*, Duke of *Pareto*, having ever valued it, as I do still, above all things on this side Heaven, (to take away all manner of pretence for any malicious Person to put a wrong Interpretation upon the Important Resolution which I have lately taken, having been necessitated thereto by Motives which are no less powerful, than they are just and free from Blame ;)

Blame;) have been willing to Publish them to the World by this Manifesto, which I have caused to be Translated into several Languages, to the end the Truth may thereby be made known every where: Protesting that I shall not say any thing therein, though of never so little Moment, which either is not self-evident, or that I am not ready to prove by Attestations and Evidences, that are undeniable and beyond any exception.

After having from my Youth served the Crown of *Spain*, proud of being born its most Faithful Vassal, and having successively discharged Offices of the Highest Importance and Trust, in different Kingdoms and Provinces, ever with the happiness of the good Liking and Approbation of the late King *Charles* the Ild of *Spain*, my Master of Glorious Memory: At length, in the beginning of the Year 1700, I was chosen Ambassador to his Imperial Majesty; the Bishop of *Lerida*, a Person otherwise of great Worth, being suddenly recalled from that Employment. What the Motives of such a sudden Choice might be, is yet a Mystery; for the King himself imparted them to me with his own Mouth, in divers long and repeated Conferences which we had together, none else being present: A Practice very unusual in the Court of *Spain*, where the Kings were never accustomed to confer with their Ministers; whose Opinions were either delivered in Writing, in the Representations of the several Councils, or if the Matter required the highest Secresy, then they were sent for to the King by the Secretary of the Cabinet, who is there styled Secretary of the Universal Dispatches; and it is looked upon that that King speaks by him. This extraordinary Proceeding gave occasion to several Discourses, according to the different Passions of every Man. However all agreed on this, That these must be Matters

of

of high Importance that were thus communicated to me; while the ordinary Things, relating to this Embassy, and to the present State of Affairs in the World, were expressed in the Instructions drawn up by the Council of State, which took up some Days in framing. And the Speculations concerning my Departure, which was hastned with such extraordinary Circumstances, went so far, that the Duke, then Marquis of *Harcourt*, who with the Character of the *Most Christian King's Ambassador*, did at that Time manage his Concerns at the Catholick Court, with the greatest Zeal and Vigilance, grew so jealous of it, that he writ, That I was gone from *Madrid*, with my King's last Will in Favour of the Emperor's Family. A Report, which was so universally spread in *Paris*, that reaching me when I was yet at *Lyons*, in my Way to *Germany*, I did not fail to give Notice thereof to the Secretary of the Universal Dispatches. In the mean while, there came to be made Publick, before I got to *Vienna*, the Famous Partition of the *Spanish Monarchy*, agreed upon between the Three Potentates of *France, England and Holland*; and, at my Arrival, I found the King's Royal Dispatches concerning this Great and New Thing: And because, among other positive Commands, I had receiv'd from the late King, before my Departure from *Madrid*, this was the Chief, that in what related to the Point of the Succession, I should not impart the least Matter to any of his Ministers, nor even to his Council of State, which has ever made that great Figure in *Spain*, which is well known to all the World; prescribing me some Secret and Impenetrable Ways, by which I should impart to him my Proceedings concerning that Affair, which Orders he repeated to me, with the same Earnestness, upon this Occasion of the said Repartition, signifying to me, His Absolute Pleasure that I should punctually execute them, not allowing of my doing otherwise,

upon any Account whatsoever : Inasmuch that having in one of my Letters directed to the Council of State touch'd upon some Matters, though they were but of very small Importance, relating to the Points of Succession, His Majesty, by his Royal Letters, sent to me by the Secretary of the Universal Dispatches, dated the 24th of September, 1700. at which time he lay under that Sickness, which since depriv'd him of his Life, express'd himself to be surpriz'd at it, and charg'd me more than ever, to observe strictly and inviolably his Royal Commands, which I had formerly receiv'd.

I found this most August Court in great Agitation, upon Account the of the Disposition of the said Partition, and of the Term which had been prefix'd by *France* for its accepting the same : Wherefore, in Obedience to the King my Master's Commands, I perform'd my Part, as it was my Duty, in order to hinder its being accepted, wherein I had the good Fortune to succeed ; and at the same Time, His Majesty sending me his Orders, directed to the Viceroy of *Naples* and of *Sicily*, and to the Governor of *Milan*. That in Case there should be any Danger of an Invasion of those Kingdoms, they should admit such Imperial Forces as should be sent thither by the most August Emperor. I judg'd upon sufficient and solid Grounds, that this was their Case at that time ; and that consequently the Remedy was not to be delay'd, and therefore us'd all possible Endeavours, that his Imperial Majesty might speedily send Part of his Troops into the said Kingdoms ; which was in a fair Way of being brought about, several Conferences having been held upon this Subject by the Imperial Ministers, wherein I was present, endeavouring with all possible Care and Diligence to accomplish my Sovereign's Desires. But there being some Difficulties in the Execution of this

this Design, I did not fail to acquaint the K. my Master there-
 with in the manner he had prescribed, praying him that
 he would be pleased to send me his Royal Commands be-
 forehand; that upon any Emergency that might happen
 I might be timely and fully informed of his Royal pleasure.
 In answer whereunto he writ to me with the most gene-
 rous Expressions of his Royal Goodness; that he was so
 secure of my Fidelity and Experience, that he gave me
 full Power to act as I thought fit, adding some other Mat-
 ters which I do not think proper to be publick at this time,
 but are well known to a great Person to whom he Com-
 manded me to impart the whole. Having since begun to
 take those steps which I judged to be most Expedient and
 Conformable to his Royal Intentions: His Majesty, whom
 I did not fail to acquaint with it, was so highly satisfi-
 ed, that he was pleased to give me the most evident Testi-
 mony thereof that I could desire. When, by a Note, all
 writ with his own hand, dated the 9th. of September 1700,
 without any previous Request on my part, he did me the
 favour to admit me into the Number of his Counsellors
 of State, the most eminent Post in the Spanish Monarchy,
 and which is looked upon as the highest Rank and Dig-
 nity, wherein the greatest Ministers can be placed after
 they have served the King as Vice-Roys of Kingdoms, or
 in the most Important Embassies; Commanding me at the
 same time that I should keep it very secret, and should
 not divulge it till there were other new Creations. A
 Testimony of his Favour truly most Glorious in it self,
 but made much more so by the many other most Gracious
 Expressions of his Royal Esteem and Acceptance of my
 Faithful Services.

What

What the Commands of His Majesty were, and the powerful Motives that induc'd him so often to oblige me to Secrecy, and not to write to him by the usual Conveyances about the Affair of the Succession, I have hitherto kept in my own Breast, with that Silence which I esteem'd to be due to so weighty a Secret, whereof it was my Fortune to be the Repository, and the Faithful Keeper. And notwithstanding, by Reason of the Death of the King, my Master, and in the Course of those Great Changes that have since happen'd, it appear'd to be not only Lawful, but even Necessary to publish them; yet I judg'd it more becoming my Character, to keep them Secret, even at the Expence of all the Sufferings I have since endured. But however, because all the Steps I took at the *Imperial Court*, and the pressing Instances I made and many, of the King's Royal Dispositions of Things, could not be concealed, not only the Principal Ministers in *Spain*, and those who had the Government of the several Kingdoms of that Monarchy, but also the Foreign Ministers, and the whole World, discours'd of them, with some Certainty grounded upon the Foundation of the said Proceedings.

This was the State of Affairs when the Death of the King, my Master, happen'd on the first of *November*, in the said Year 1700, whereof I receiv'd certain Advice at *Vienna*, by an Express dispatch'd from *Madrid*, the 25th of the same Month, with an Account likewise of the Disposition made by his Last Will and Testament. After which, tho' I continu'd to treat with his Imperial Majesty, and other Princes of that most August Family; making Use of certain Expedients to be admitted, which being represented by me to the *Junto* at *Madrid*, were approv'd by that Council, which at that time had the Government there; yet being well assured, that my Residence in this *Imperial Court*,
could

could be of no long Continuance, by Reason of the visible Dispositions towards the War that was then in agitation ; I did, by repeated Representations, backed with the most weighty Arguments, press the Government at *Madrid*, that since my Departure from the Court of *Vienna*, was certain, and shortly to be expected, they would cause what was due to me on my Allowance, which amounted to many thousands of Crowns, to be speedily discharged, lest for want of receiving the just and necessary Payment thereof, I should not be able to depart without exposing my Person, and consequently the Dignity of my Character, to some Affront, which was undoubtedly to be expected from my Creditors, who had lent me their Money, to maintain my self and support those many Expences I had been forc'd to make.

These just Instances, and the Consideration of the ill Consequences that might attend any Delays, prevail'd with the Government at *Madrid*, to send Express and Repeated Directions to the Vice-Roy of *Naples*, (the Payment of my Allowance, being assigned me, by Order of the late King, out of the best Funds of his Royal Patrimony in that Kingdom,) that he should, without any Delay, remit to me the Summs that were owing me ; charging him, that if the Funds appointed for this Purpose were deficient, he should take up the Money on Credit, and at any Interest. But whether by Reason that the Royal Exchequer at *Naples* was low, or for other Causes, it is certain, That these strict Orders had no manner of Effect ; So that having received the Commands of his Imperial Majesty in the Month of *April*, 1701. which were notified to me by the Great *Mar-*

Marshal of his Court, that seeing the War was declared against the two Crowns, I should depart out of his Imperial Court, I was obliged to have Recourse to his Imperial Majesty's Goodness, and to beg that, provided I speedily obey'd him, in departing from *Vienna*, he would be pleased to permit me to remain in some Neighbouring Village, there to expect my Supplies from *Naples*, in order to satisfy my Creditors; which being graciously granted, I retir'd to the Town of *Nasdorf*, from whence I represented time after time to the Court of *Spain*, my urgent Necessities, which were now much encreased, by these new Accidents, and required a speedy Supply, to the End I might depart out of *Germany*, and retire to lead a private Life in some Corner of the World I should chuse; having declared, That I would not return to *Spain* in my old Age, nor take any Office upon me. Nor did I fail to communicate all this to the King of *France's* Minister, then at *Vienna*, pursuant to the Orders I had receiv'd from the Court at *Madrid*, to confer with him upon all Occasions.

Then fresh Orders were sent to the Vice-Roy of *Naples*, who after several Months remitted to me a small part of the great Sums that were due to me; and tho' it was neither Proportionable to my Wants, nor sufficient to satisfy my Creditors; however, having consign'd to them for their Security, all my Effects of any Value, I resolv'd to free my self from all Engagements, and retire into the Circle of *Bavaria*, and made choice of the City of *Saltzburg*, as being in the common road to *Italy*; which Intention I Communicated to the *French* Minister. And having taken a House there, whereof I have since been obliged to pay the Rent. Went before my

my Goods and all my Family, that I might follow with less Trouble and Incumbrance: but the Commotions at *Naples* happening at the same time, and great Severity being used with some Persons, who were actually in the Service of his Imperial Majesty, and were Apprehended there. On the 23d, of *October*, the day that I had fixt for my Departure, upon the very Instant of my going away, Orders were giving for seizing me, which was Personally notified to me in the Name of his Imperial Majesty, by the Great Marshal of the Court, Commanding me not to depart from *Nusiderff*, from whence I was since removed to one of the Suburbs of *Vienna*, having given my Parole of Honour to observe my Arrest exactly, that I might avoid having a Guard set upon me. And having obtained of his Imperial Majesty the necessary Passports for the sending of a Courier to *Milan*, I did not fail immediately to acquaint that Governor with what had happened, desiring him to give notice thereof to the Court of *Spain*, to which I writ my self, inclosing my Dispatches, for a safer Conveyance, to the said Governour; who answer'd me, that he had forwarded them by the Post to *Madrid*: But either thro' my Misfortune, or some other Reason, they were never delivered at that Court, whither the News of my being put under Arrest coming from some other hand, and no Notice thereof being receiv'd from my self, this silence was Interpreted to my Prejudice, and there arose various Discourses concerning me, which were fomented by a certain Minister in *Italy*, who with Equivocal Expressions, tho' very significant and sharp, endeavour'd in some of his Representations to make this Accident appear full of Mystety: From hence there arose a great Storm against me, but afterwards, the Truth being made known, and proved by the

the Letters which the said Governour of *Milan* writ in Answer to the Questions sent to him by the Court about it, and by other very Substantial Evidences, the Storm cleared up in such manner as that that Government repeated their Orders with great Earnestness to the Vice-Roy of *Naples*, that he should not only discharge speedily what was due to me for the time past, but should over and above, pay me half of the usual Allowance to Ambassadors during the whole time I should continue under my Confinement. But not finding that those pressing Orders had any Effect, I began to suspect that the Vice-Roy of *Naples* had Directions from some Superior Power not to pay me; for I could not reconcile it with Common Sense, That they should let a Minister of my Rank perish for want of paying him his due, especially being under the Trouble of an Arrest: A Consideration which of it self should have been sufficient to oblige the Court of *Spain* to maintain me honourably, at least for the Glory of their Crown, tho' they had not been convinced of the Justice of my Demands, and my suspicions were the better grounded, because I knew that at the same time Remittances of Money were made from *Naples*, to other Ambassadors, where there were not the same Things to be consider'd as there were upon my Account. To which may be added, that since the Death of my King, under pretence of a general Reform, the Places of Counsellors in the Supreme Council of *Italy*, and Conservator of the Royal Patrimony in *Italy*, were taken from me; tho' it was well known upon what just and special Considerations the late King in his Goodness had been induced to grant them to me; when, at the same time, other Persons were excepted out of this general Rule, on whose side there were not so many Considerations,

siderations, as concurred to my Advantage. However, I bore all this patiently, not only without Complaining, but even without making any Interest to obtain the like Exception.

At the same time it happened without any Contrivance of mine, but by meer Chance, that there fell into my hands some Letters which are still in being, writ by a Minister of *Naples*, to another of the first Rank in *Spain*, wherein he said, that notwithstanding such pressing Orders were sent thither in my behalf, yet he knew well enough that all this was done with a design only to make sure of me, that thus they might get me to yield my self frankly into their hands. But attributing those Expressions only to the Levity or Malice of this Minister, I took little notice of them, but continued my Application to the Court of *Madrid*, that they would not suffer me to perish thus meanly in the forsaken Condition I was. And in effect, I received several Answers from thence, that the pressing Orders had been again repeated to the Vice-Roy of *Naples*, directing him, that without any further loss of time he should immediately put them in Execution; and with these hopes was I flattered, till the 14th. of *December* of the last Year 1702.

But at that time instead of receiving any Supply, I had advice from *Naples*, that in the Month of *November*, of the same year, Orders had been sent to that Vice-Roy, by the way of *Milan*, that he should forthwith Sequester all my Goods and Estates, and that it had been immediately done, as well those I held

as Fiefs from the Crown, as the rest, even those which belonged to my Sons, who for some years had lived, as they do still, at *Milan*, and those which were in the possession of my two Brothers, whereof one resided there, with my Sons, and the other at *Naples*. It is not possible for me to express with what Astonishment and Mortification I received so terrible a piece of News, to see my self Condemned before I was heard, and the Sentence executed before any notice had been given me of my pretended Crime ; a Rigour never heard of, nor practised against the vilest, and most notorious Offenders, even those who are guilty of High Treason, and directly contrary to all the Laws, whether Divine, Natural or Civil, by which Nations are govern'd. And the greater was my surprize, because that, upon the strictest Examination of my own Conscience, all I could find, was, that during the whole Reign of the late King my Master, and for the space of 36 years, I had served him in so many considerable Offices with that Candor and Fidelity which have deserved to his dying day, his entire Royal Confidence, and the highest Testimonies of his Approbation and Acceptance ; and since his Death, during my Continuance at *Vienna*, afterwards at *Nusdorf*, and last of all, in one of the Suburbs of this City, I never failed to give an exact Account of every step I made to the Court of *Spain*, where my Proceedings were always approved, as appears by their Letters, which I still keep by me ; and since my departure from *Vienna*, I always kept my self as private as was possible, which is well known. However, receiving this Disgrace with the greatest Submission and Moderation,

on, and with a Confidence grounded on my own Innocence, that I should obtain a due Reparation. I writ in the beginning of the last Month of *December*, to the Court of *Spain*, with that Assurance which is an inseparable Companion of an upright Heart, that a Proceeding so irregular and improper in all its Circumstances, I was fully perswaded, must be a mistake in that Vice-Roy; since I could not believe that tho' Malice taking Advantage of the Juncture of Affairs, and the place where I was, should have charged me with any Guilt, yet so just a Court as that of *Madrid* could have condemned a Minister of my Rank, without so much as hearing what he had to say in his Defence, and could as a Reward for his many honourable Services, have been willing to reduce him by this Sequestration of all his Estates and Revenues, to the Extremity of perishing for meer want; and therefore entreated, in the most earnest and respectful Manner, that this might be speedily redressed. From that time forward I renewed my Instances every Post, till the last before the Date of this Paper; and though my Agents at *Naples* ceased to write to me, being forbid to do it, and my Correspondents at *Madrid* protested to me, that they were also commanded at the time of this Sequestration to forbear writing to me, yet I took upon me to beg of that Government, to permit them to continue their Correspondence, that I might, if not by due Course of Law, yet through their Means at least, know what was my supposed Crime, and not remain wholly without Defence; but to this very Day, I have not,
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it seems, deserv'd so much as an Answer to so just and reasonable Instances.

So long and severe a Silence to a Minister of my Character, and in a Matter of this Concern, joined with so many other weighty Arguments, above-mentioned, fully satisfied me that the present Government in *Spain*, disgusted perhaps at the Commissions of great Confidence, which had been entrusted to me by the King my Master, and were executed by me with that Exactness which became a faithful Vassal, and an honourable Minister, and imputing my inviolable Loyalty to me as a Crime, had a long time absolutely resolved my Ruine; and not finding any Reason, wherewith to justify their Proceeding, they thought it necessary to condemn me unheard.

God is my Witness, that the Loss of my Estate, which was not despicable, though heavy in it self to a Man of my Years, accustom'd to live in a decent Splendor, and made much more so, with Regard to my Innocent Sons, Brothers and Nephews, who without any Fault of theirs or mine, are drawn in to be Sharers in my Disgrace, is not my greatest Affliction, having sufficient Knowledge of the Inconstancy of Humane Affairs: But to see my self treated in so ignominious a Manner, in the Face of the whole World, with the horrid Imputation of a *Rebel*, is a Thing altogether intolerable to any innocent Person, who values his Reputation, much more than his Life.

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Having therefore 'hitherto without any Success try'd all possible Means to remove their fatal Distrust of me ; and finding that this Persecution against me had taken too deep Root, That no Way was left open for me to justifie my self, That my Representations were not only slighted, but not so much as heard ; and on the other hand, seeing my self destitute of all Human Assistance, my Reputation so unjustly torn to pieces, and my self reduc'd in my old Age, after so many honourable Services to the last Extremity of begging my Bread, I found no other way of preserving my self from this present Shipwrack, than by having recourse to that sacred Anchor, the Sovereign Protection of the most Gracious Emperor *Leopold* ; which being the must Authentick Proof of my Honourable Proceeding, will also be the most secure Refuge for my Injured Reputation ; nor can I end my days more happily and gloriously than in the Service of this most August House of *Austria*, to which it was my Fortune to be born a Vassal as I am still by reason of its Incontestible Right so well known to all *Europe*.

Now let all the World judge, but judge impartially, of this my Resolution, which is rendred as just by the powerful Motives that induced me to it, as it is necessary in this my great Distress. I trust in God the Fountain of Truth, that there will not be found any Man so Ignorant or Malicious as to attribute it to any Levity ; especially if they do but consider, that to preserve my Honour to a nicety, I

656. have delay'd it till now, notwithstanding the great hardships I have endured, and the many Reasons I have had to the contrary. Much less can it be look'd upon as any Disloyalty in me, as a Vassal, or the least Disobedience as a Minister, since I never have either directly in Person, or indirectly by Proxy, taken any Oath of Allegiance to the present Possessor of the *Spanish* Monarchy, nor has he to this day received the Investiture of the Kingdom of *Naples*, my native Country, Conditions which are both Essential and Indispensibly Necessary to the laying of any Obligation upon any Man as a Vassal. As to the Ministry I have already said above, That I had declar'd to the Court of *Spain* my Intentions of retiring, in order to enjoy my Liberty in a private Life. And as for what relates to my Character of Ambassador, I never was acknowledg'd as such in this Imperial Court, only as I was Commissioned by the late King *CHARLES II.* my Master, as I signified to the present Court at *Madrid*, from whence I never received any new Credentials, nor was otherwise entrusted with any Affair of Importance, but had only sent me an Instrument of Procuration, which might as well have been given to any other, though not a Vassal, so demand the Investiture of the Duchy of *Milan*, and swear Fealty for the same to his Imperial Majesty, which had no Effect. And I can also very truly say, that the Court at *Madrid* never acknowledged me as such, after the Death of the King, my Master, since while they continued their real Payments to all their other Ambassadors, I was the only one whom they never paid in any other Coin, than bare Words,

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as above, is more largely made appear. Nevertheless, I protest that notwithstanding I have met with so little good Fortune in the present Government of *Spain*, yet I have ever preserved, and shall continue to do so, the perpetual Veneration I owe to the ever Illustrious and Glorious *Spanish* Nation, to which I profess my self eternally oblig'd for the continu'd Favours and Honours which I always received from her for the space of so many years. And so I pray God, the giver of all Good Gifts, that he will be pleased to allay the Storm wherein she is at present tossed, and Conduct her to the Port of undisturbed Happiness, which she deserves by her Bravery, her Loyalty, and the Grandeur of her most Noble Genius. *Vienna* the 19th. of *March* 1703.

F I N I S.